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elevations and ocean depths, and nineteen plates complete the volume.

This paper is characteristic of the usual good typography and uniform quality of paper of the publications of the California Academy of Sciences.

E. L. Morris

NOTES AND NEWS ITEMS

We learn from the *Review of Reviews* of the appointment of Professor F. P. Daniels as a travelling fellow on the Kahn Foundation. The itinerary of each fellow is expected to include Europe, Egypt, Japan, India and other Oriental countries and to take at least a year. Professor Daniels, now professor of romance languages in Wabash College, has done considerable botanical work in the middle west.

The death of Dr. Raymond Haines Pond is recorded as having occurred by his own hand, at College Station, Texas, on July 25. Dr. Pond received the degree of Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1902. From 1903 to 1907, he was professor of botany and pharmacognosy in the College of Pharmacy of Northwestern University; in 1908–'09 he held the position of biologist of the Metropolitan Sewerage Commission of New York City; and since 1909 he had been plant pathologist at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. A considerable part of the time between 1905 and 1908 was spent by him in carrying on researches in physiological botany at the New York Botanical Garden and at the universities of Bonn and Strassburg, and he had made several contributions to the literature of this department of botany. Dr. Pond was for a time a member of the Torrey Club.

In the recently issued annual report of the New York State Botanist is recorded the spread of the chestnut disease to Marlborough, Ulster Co., which, "with one exception is the most northern station for it in this State." The report summarizes the work of the past year, and includes among other things a list of about 80 plants new to the State herbarium, most of which are fungi. A brief account is also given of the changes going on in the transformation of areas now water surfaced to land, particularly of the important part played in the process by swamps and bogs.

A History of Gardening in England, by Hon. Mrs. Evelyn Cecil (third and enlarged edition. Pp. 393. Illustrated. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1910) which first appeared in 1896 is, as its title states, a history of gardening in England. The chronological bibliography itself, is, with its quaint titles, fascinatingly suggestive, and there is enjoyment and to spare, both for the long summer days and the winter fireside, in the four hundred pages describing monastic gardening and the gardens of the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries, the early garden literature, the kitchen gardens, the dawn of landscape gardening, and the development of modern gardening.

The January *Science* contains two articles of interest to teachers of botany. The first on "The Method of Science" was delivered by Professor Charles S. Minot at the Minneapolis meeting (A. A. A. S., December), and is of interest to any science teacher, emphasizing as it does (1) the "concentration of interest upon novel practical results" not wholly favorable to science, (2) the need of encouraging the "pursuit of pure science" which "will not be compelled," and (3) that science differs from every day life in definiteness and the importance given therefore to the preservation of evidence. The steps in valid scientific work are "*first*, the record of the individual personal knowledge; *second*, the conversion of the personal knowledge by verification and collation into valid impersonal knowledge; *third*, the systematic coördination and condensation of the conclusions," and an interesting amplification of these points follows.

The Clarendon Press has just issued a small volume (*Vocabulaire Forstier*. Francais-Allemand-Anglais by J. Gerschel, Oxford, 1911. Price $1.75) which well covers its field of activity. About fifty pages are devoted to definitions of French forestry words, seventy-eight to German words, and sixty-two to English words. This difference in the number of words used by the three peoples furnishes a significant suggestion as to the relative importance among them of forestry.

The recently issued prospectus of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences for 1911–12 includes, under the department of botany, 16 illustrated lectures, 4 illustrated conferences, 17 field meetings, and also outlines five courses covering various phases of botanical activity.

The following botanists have been working at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole during the whole or part of the past season: C. M. Derick, B. M. Duggar, L. Knudson, G. R. Lyman, G. T. Moore, W. J. V. Osterhout, and M. B. Thomas.

At the University of Utah, C. N. Jensen has been appointed professor of botany and plant pathology for 1911–1912.

We learn from the daily press of the appointment of Dr. H. H. York as assistant professor of botany at Brown University, and of Dr. Anna Starr's appointment as instructor in botany at Mount Holyoke College.

On four successive Fridays, beginning October 13, Wilhelm Ludwig Johannsen, professor of plant physiology in the University of Copenhagen, will lecture on the "Modern Principles of Heredity," in No. 305 Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, at 4:10 P. M. The subjects will be "The Problem of Personal Characters," "The Problem of Unit Factors," "Problems of Correlation and Sex," and "The Problems of New Biotypes." The lectures are open to the public, but the doors will be closed five minutes after the beginning of each discussion.

According to the New York *Evening Post* (October 7) the regents of the University of Wisconsin have appointed E. M. Gilbert assistant professor of botany, and W. N. Steil, E. T. Bartholemew, and Alban Stewart instructors, to fill the positions occupied by W. G. Marquette and A. B. Stout, who have come to Columbia University with Professor R. A. Harper, the recently appointed Torrey professor of botany at that institution.

From the same source we learn of the appointment of Miss Helene M. Boas as an assistant in botany at Barnard College.

Professor H. C. Cowles of the University of Chicago was one of a number of American scientists who attended the meeting of the British Association at Portsmouth.

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton have returned from Europe and Dr. P. A. Rydberg has returned from a three months' collecting trip to the Rocky Mountains. Dr. Arthur Hollick left on October 15 to continue his studies on Alaskan fossil plants at the United States National Museum.

A conjugating yeast (*Schizosaccharomyces*) has been reported by W. C. Coker. It was obtained from grapes left in distilled water, and has not been noted before in America.

J. G. Lipman of Rutgers College proposes a bacteriological test for soil acidity. Tubes of bouillon are adjusted to varying acid reactions—from neutral to three per cent. After adding measured amounts of the soil to be tested (1 to 10 grams) these media are inoculated with bacteria (*e. g.*, *Bacillus subtilis*) and the amount of acid in the soils estimated by the resulting growth (heavy, slight, lacking). This method may be varied for ammonifying bacteria, for nitrogen-fixing forms, etc. Mr. Lipman expects to publish more definite results of his experiments soon.

The seedling of *Quercus virginiana* is described in the *Plant World* for May by Isaac M. Lewis. The "petiole of the cotyledons in this species serves as a 'sinker' in much the same way as is characteristic of certain monocotyledonous plants, notably *Phoenix dactylifera*. This habit, correlated with the habit of transporting the material from the acorn down to a position of greater safety in the fleshy root, would seem to be a decided advantage to the plant in establishing itself in the semi-arid situations in which it is often found."

Conjugation between two different species of *Spirogyra* (*S. crassa* and *S. communis*) is reported in the June *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* by Mr. F. M. Andrews, who is continuing his investigations hoping for interesting results connected with these hybrid forms.